

5738712/1-2 David from Mrs. Townsend

Here in New Bedford, once the whaling capitol of the world, approximately 200 vessels fish off of George's Bank every week. About 1,000 fishermen go to sea to make a living and each time they go to sea they each create nine other jobs ashore. These are people in our area who make their living hand in hand with the fisherman's occupation. Also, there are many new fishing vessels which have been constructed ranging in cost from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 a piece. These people have invested everything they are and everything they own into the fishing industry. This industry is a very crucial economic package to our area.

Once you start stirring up the inner harbor, where are our boats supposed to dock? Are you going to put up a screening device to keep the contents from leaving the dike entrance? Will you close the dike during dredging hours to allow the bottom to settle back down before you open the gates? Did you know that when scientist from Woodshole were researching samples from our inner harbor, they had to be very careful not to contaminate their test equipment? They had to be careful, so that the testing done in the outer harbor would not be contaminated by instruments used in the sampling of the inner harbor. Did you know that shellfish, and lobsters suffer reproductive failure when they contain 10-20 ppm? Did you know that the mother transfers PCBs to fish eggs and lobster eggs? How are our fishermen and the fishing industry going to beat those odds if you do not handle this situation properly?

Did you know that New Bedford is having serious problems with their sewer treatment plants? Did you know that on March 1, 1982 the Town Planner of Fairhaven reported hazardous waste being dumped off River Avenue? Did you know that River Avenue is near the hot spot locations? At an EPA meeting some of your people told us that one of the more serious waste problems can be created by dumping crankcase oils. How many other people dumped this type of waste into our harbor full of PCBs and what chemical reactions are taking place because of it?

Did you know that on the Fairhaven side of the harbor where Fairhaven Marine is presently located, that building used to be the old Atlas Tack Co? Right next door was a candle factory, down the street was an oil refinery, a brass factory and and iron foundry. Did you know that on Middle and Main Sts. there was a granite factory, a paint factory and a glass factory and we even had our own soap factory in town? Why are these questions relevant? I believe when you start breaking down what products were made, what chemicals were used to manufacture those products and finally where they were dumped it's going to make a difference in how you handle those PCBs.

In researching the various industries in Fairhaven I have learned that the following chemicals may have been used in the manufacture of certain products. Some can be quite lethal, however I will leave that up to more knowledgeable people to determine. Chlorine, copper, fluorine, hydrochloric acid, carbon, silicon, manganese, phosphorus, sulphur, white lead, spar oil, mercury, nickel, benzene, benzol, caustic alkalies, coal tar, fats, naphtha, tannin, iron, cadmium, chromium, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylenes, oil and grease.

Have you discovered whether or not PCBs have a catalytic affect when mixed with other chemicals? That was one question I asked some of you people six months ago at an open meeting, but I never did get an answer. Aerovox and Cornell Dubilier are always mentioned at these hearings but never Revere Copper and Brass. Why? It is a known fact to most cooks that the action of vegetable acids on copper metal produces poisonous compounds similar to verdigris.

How would such a chemical react when mixed with PCBs?

We know that when ammonia from cow manure rises with condensation and merges with sulphur dioxide emissions the two chemicals create an acid which can pollute our lakes and streams. But what will happen to PCBs when they merge with sulphur dioxide? What can these two chemicals produce?

Is there any truth to a statement made that 55% of the patients from Sydney Farber are from this area? If it is true then I would ask how many other patients are in other Boston or Providence hospitals from this area?

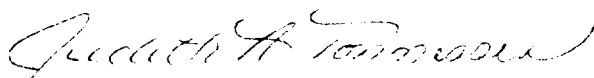
Have you taken hair samples from the employees and families from the different companies in the area? Have hair studies been used to determine what you should be looking for as a possible health threat? Wouldn't it be a lot simpler to find out what chemicals are in these people's systems before you start drilling or dredging outside?

In the Nov. 18th issue of the ST we see the EPA and news reporters standing around the Re-Solve site in Dartmouth with their white contamination suits. Visitors were required to wear yellow rubber boots and white hooded gowns. Even then a southern swatch of the site was off limits because of the high concentrations of PCBs. Our harbor contain ten times that amount! Where are the chain fences to keep our children away from the harbor? Where are our white suits and rubber boots? Is it true that four to six companies were asked to come up with solutions for the RAMP proposal and that none of these companies co-ordinated their efforts? Is it true that the companies participating are each getting a quarter of a million dollars for their participation in the study?

I have been trying to explain to you, in my own fashion, that we have a serious health factor here! Yet we are barred (along with the press) from DEQE meetings in Lakeville while they negotiate privately with a co. who has showed indifference to the well being of the citizens and to the coastline eco system. We need answers, but more than that we need action. Action that will show some positive results. We don't want this project dragged on, we want a reputable company in to clean up this mess so we can get on with our lives in a healthier climate.

My generation has expanded it's horizons to discover the truth regarding all environmental issues affecting health, once that truth is discovered we will make every commitment that our children will be protected. We have set a goal to keep things in good order for them and to help them as best we can. We will also be helping to protect your children in the process, thereby we all benefit. Please search your souls and ask yourselves why you really came here this evening.

We in Fairhaven met with you last summer. We responded to the health issues and asked many questions. Since that meeting we haven't heard from any of your officials unless we called them ourselves. The people of my town responded to a cancer survey in good faith and they deserve answers to their inquiries. Why haven't we received answers, we can only speculate. Perhaps it was politically beneficial to silence the issue expediently. Maybe friends stand to make a tidy profit on the studies, on the dredging and also on the building of the new bridge, which has been a joke since day one. Local politicians tell themselves that this project is in the best interest of the people and that it will create new jobs. Then let me ask, what good will the new jobs be to anyone if the harbor is not cleaned up and they are too sick to work? Thank you.



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